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FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: PROMOTING SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND PARTICIPATION OF ALL PEOPLE, INCLUDING DISADVANTAGED AND VULNERABLE GROUPS AND PERSONS

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Mrs. Maria Lourdes V. Ramiro Lopez (Philippines)

Addendum

Promoting social integration and the participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons: elements for the agreed conclusions of the Commission

C. Violence, crime and the problems of illicit drugs and substance abuse as factors of social integration

1. Violence, crime and the illicit drugs problem pose serious challenges to the social fabric of all societies and require specific policies and programmes for their prevention and elimination, including the elimination of domestic violence and violence against women, children, older persons, migrants and other minorities, and persons with disabilities.

2. Policies and programmes for dealing with violence, crime, and illicit drugs and substance abuse must be tackled as part of an integrated strategy for social and economic development which includes strong measures for dealing with these problems but equally seeks to understand and address the causes of such phenomena.

3. Women are particularly vulnerable to acts of violence, including all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation. Violence against women is a violation of their human rights, is incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human

being, and constrains women's economic and political empowerment. Violence against women, including children and persons belonging to minorities in all its forms, is a hindrance to development and prevents the full enjoyment of their human rights and the achievement of equality.

4. Poor people, among them women and children, are often the most vulnerable to all forms of violence and abuse, including domestic violence, crime and civil conflict. Systems of justice, law enforcement and government service should be managed in a way that makes them, in practice, fully available to all women and children.

5. Policies and programmes adopted to address the serious problems of violence, crime and illicit drugs should reflect the principle that the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency and adult criminality should be undertaken as an integrated part of comprehensive economic and social development.

6. Women and men are affected differently by drug abuse. International as well as national strategies which target the abuse of licit as well as illicit drugs must integrate a gender perspective. Participation of women in the planning and implementation of drug abuse prevention programmes is the key to ensuring that issues specific to women can be addressed adequately. There is a need for more gender-disaggregated data and research concerning gender-related differences in drug taking. Treatment and detoxification centres for drug addicts must be made available for men and women on a non-discriminatory basis.

7. Developments in communication, transportation and technology have globalized violence, crime and the illicit drugs problem. Although the primary responsibility for crime prevention and criminal justice rests at the national level, violence, crime and illicit drugs activities are of such a magnitude and also have such major transnational dimensions as to require international cooperation and coordination in formulating and implementing effective responses. The vast financial and human resources available to the illicit drugs trade, in many cases exceeding the resources of national Governments, have made international cooperation and coordination imperative to an effective anti-drugs strategy.

8. The developing countries face a serious challenge since they must also confront a lack of resources, illiteracy, unemployment and underemployment, and deteriorating economies, which make international assistance imperative.

9. The main responsibility for countering the disintegration of traditional social structures that may previously have discouraged an individual from turning to drug abuse rests at the national level. The promotion of a cohesive social structure, while supporting opportunities to access lawful sources of employment and income, will improve the individual's living environment and may be the best guarantee against turning to drug abuse and/or drug trafficking. International cooperation has a key role to play in complementing national efforts.

10. States are encouraged to review the adequacy of their laws to respond to corruption, and to take all possible measures, through national and

international legal frameworks, to enhance their capacity for action against enterprises involved in corruption.

11. Since the illicit drugs problem is multifaceted, all strategies for combating this scourge must be based on a balanced approach which addresses all aspects of the problem, including demand and supply reduction, trafficking and money laundering through banking channels. The affected countries should be extended all possible technical assistance to enhance the capacities of law enforcement agencies engaged in combating illicit drugs.

12. Alternative development is a priority component of any approach to solving the problem of illicit crops, not only through crop substitution but also through the promotion of the economic development of affected countries, as well as the full integration into the legal system of social groups involved in such activity.

13. Drug abuse by young people is on the increase in most parts of the world. However, youth groups can also be engaged as active agents in the field of the prevention of drug abuse. Youth culture can be a valuable tool for awareness-raising. All information technologies, including the Internet, should be used in order to spread information about the negative consequences of drug abuse and information on how to seek help.

14. Education is an important mechanism in the prevention of drug abuse by youth. Institutes of education should be encouraged to implement curricula that provide information on drug addiction and to provide appropriate textbooks. Schools should also provide counselling between teachers, students and parents, and teachers should receive training to prepare them for this role.

15. Youth should be given the opportunity to express their views and speak about the problems that they face with drug use and addiction. After-school activities, such as cultural events and sports, should be available to fill excess leisure time and unsupervised time.

16. Relevant training and information as well as assistance to workers who have problems with substance abuse are necessary. As part of rehabilitation, vocational training should be available to drug addicts to help them to get jobs and integrate better into society.

17. Policies for drug control require equally appropriate training of doctors and social workers in contact with drug addicts. Knowledge of the immediate and long-term effects of drug use on physical and mental health and the social life of individuals, as well as the distribution of information about appropriate treatment and specialist organizations, are necessary for improved prevention and to deal adequately with drug addicts.

18. The role of the media should be promoted to ensure the dissemination of information on the dangers of drug abuse and addiction.

19. Non-governmental organizations are widely recognized as partners of Governments in the fight against drug abuse. They are particularly active in the fields of prevention, rehabilitation and social integration. In many

countries, non-governmental organizations are the main providers of shelter and counselling for victims of violence. Continued support of such organizations is encouraged.

20. In supporting the international legal framework and cooperation in the application of law, it should be emphasized that developing countries require the necessary assistance to alleviate the burdens placed on their national administration. Similarly, technical support should be rendered to countries to facilitate the effective implementation of legal instruments.

21. The Commission looks forward to the discussion of all aspects of the problem of illicit drugs at the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, to be held in June 1998, and encourages the international community to participate in the special session at a high political level to ensure its successful outcome.